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## The Bell Mare

By.....  
MARTHA  
MCULLOCH-  
WILLIAMS

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McCulloch-  
Williams

SQUIRE GLEAVES reined in at the top of the hill and looked back down at the long, gentle slope with eyes of pride.

"They most make it seem like I never had a real drove before," he said, nodding toward the roadway, "yet I've followed this droverin' business better'n twenty years, an' not a year but I took some good stock down to the cotton country."

Johnny Cope, at the squire's elbow, answered only with a sigh. It was Johnny's mission and privilege to ride Lightly, the bell mare. Her full name was Lady Golightly. She stepped proudly and held her head high, as became the wearer of a silver bell and a great-granddaughter of Diomedes. She was not quite thoroughbred, but blood-like all over, with flat, clean legs; firm, fine grained hoofs and muscles like steel whips playing beneath her satiny black coat. If the cold cross showed anywhere it was in her quarters. They were powerful enough for a cart horse. The fact assured that she could carry weight any distance, notwithstanding Johnny, who rode her, weighed less than 100 pounds, though he was rising seventeen.

Johnny had drifted to the Gleaves place three years back from nobody knew where. The squire, who was half easy going and wholly shrewd, had kept him at first compassionately and later because the lad exactly suited his turn. Johnny was a born rider, light, yet bold, strong handed, clear headed and full of the curious magnetic sympathy which goes subtly along the rein and makes horse and rider one.

The squire of course did not phrase it just that way. He said the stray boy could feel a horse's mind through its mouth down to the tips of his own toes. Therefore he was kept riding the greater part of the time. Drove horses, broken and gaited, especially saddle gaited, brought easily as much again as those merely halter wise. Three parts of this drove were so broken and gaited. No wonder the squire was proud of them. Two hundred odd, sleek all, in perfect fettle, gray, bay, brown, black, dappled and roan, there was not one without a cross or two of blood or one whose condition did not do equal credit to the pastures and paddocks of the Gleaves place or to judgment of the place's owner.

Five to six abreast they came up the

road pellmell. Now and again those at the edges halted to snatch at twigs or sear roadside grass. It was late September. Though there had been no hint of frost, the black gums were full of crimson leaves and the taller sassafras shot through with yellow. New blackberry briars showed the purple of iron cooling from the forge. Everywhere else there was the deep glossed green of midsummer, something ragged in spots and faintly fretted with dust. There had been no rain since the drove started from the grass country eight days back. It had just got fairly into the sparsely settled half wilderness which in the late twenties stretched between middle Tennessee and the Carolina cotton plantations.

The road, a well traveled trace, ran mainly through woods. Here or there it crossed a natural meadow, often many acres in extent. Grass grew so tall in the low spots of these meadows that it could be tied either side above a horse's neck as one rode through. The vanished buffalo had no doubt relished such lusty stalks, but the drove beasts chose instead to nip the fine tender upland bents which came at most no higher than the knee.

Thus the big meadow was a noted camping place. It lay two miles ahead of the hilltop. There was a clear creek between. Possibly it was the scent of water which set Lightly whickering, but Squire Gleaves said, patting her neck, "So you smell grass an' rest, eh, old gal?" She tossed her head the least bit, whickering again. This time the call was louder, more insistent and compelling. In answer every hoof behind quickened, necks stretched, muzzles lifted, ears went flat against the neck. In sinuous, tumbling column, melting, changing momentarily, the ranks charged upon their leader, breaking from the walk to the trot, the trot to the gallop, the gallop to the dead full run.

Squire Gleaves drew out to let them pass. He knew Johnny and Lightly could be trusted. Besides, there were water and the grass. The drove was sharp set. The noonday halt had been in tall, barren woodland, so they had had nothing more than scant mouthfuls of fodder from the wagon. His mare, roan Mary, was wild to join in the rush, but he held hard until his son Joe came up with black Sam at his horse's tail and the big covered wagon rolling pompously behind. Shadrach,

wagoner and camp cook, sat nodding in the saddle, but still clutched his single rein and long lashed whip. It was wonderful that he slept, even with the wagon at the snail's pace it had been going. Joe Gleaves and black Sam had also long whips and made them crack like pistol shots over the backs of the laggards, yet without touching a hair.

"Father! I say! Hadn't you better ride up? S'pose Johnny couldn't stop Lightly?" Joe said, a thought anxiously. His father smiled. Joe was the apple of his eye. This forethoughted caution, instead of youth's natural recklessness, pleased him through and through. He said over his shoulder as he gave roan Mary the spur: "Son, I'm obleeged to you, but you've no need to worry. Lightly knows the business nigh as well as I do. This is the tenth drove she's led for me, remember. Please the good Lord, she'll lead many more. She shows her age as little as I do mine."

Joe's face was tense as he watched his father galloping ahead, light and straight in the saddle as he was himself. "The old man's good for thirty years at least," he said, half under breath, his mouth hardening. He was a handsome fellow, slight, but well set up, with darkling eyes under bent brows and very red lips cruelly thin. He had been strictly brought up and was outwardly a model of all the virtues. As to whether the virtues struck deep there were two opinions. His

world for the most part held that they did. But there was a sharp eyed moiety, long eared withal, that whispered in its most private hours of other things—roisterings and riotings in Nashville town, whither Joe went for a fortnight every winter; night long gaming at the crossroads the other side of the county, stolen visits to the Nashville races and heavy wagers lost and won.

Still, when all was said, he was no worse than a hypocrite, throwing dust in the eyes of a blindly doting father. There were only himself and his blind sister Alice to inherit the tidy fortune Squire Gleaves had laid up. Everybody knew Joe would come into seven-eighths of it, so the harshest of his critics did not blame him overmuch for keeping his riotous living under cover. To riot openly would distress his father beyond measure, and it is everywhere understood that those who can pay his scot is entitled to riot in his youth.

"Maybe it's fifty years. He's just the build to live to a hundred," Joe repeated, still hushedly, as his father went out of sight. Then he snatched a walnut from a laden bough above the road, half turned and fired it at Shadrach, shouting: "Wake up, ole nigger! Wake up! Are you tryin' to break your neck an' let us starve here in the wilderness?"

"No, sir-ee! Shadrach too hongry. He not gwine die dat er-way, wid meal an' flour an' middlin' meat in de wag-



"Will you take me in?"



Suddenly a bullet sang past, missing Johnny's head a bare inch.



in," Shadrach said, grinning broadly, as he rubbed his eyes. "But 'tain't no wonner I drapt ter sleep. Yo' all dribe dem hawses so pizen slow de ve'y look er de wagin wheels sot me noddin'."

"Well, drive for all your team is worth now," Joe called back. He was a hundred yards clear of the latest drove laggard. Far ahead he could see the foremost ranks bunching and crowding in the creek. He swung his whip high above his head, made it snap three times and went like the wind in the wake of the plunging beasts. By the time he came fully up with them only twenty stood in the stream. It was roiled for 100 yards up and down. The banks were shallow and shelving. Joe knew the drove had rushed down them. Then the more whimsical or the least thirsty had crowded one above the other, each eager to drink from a current unvexed and untainted.

As he rode up the bank he saw his father, dismounted, bending to rub his stiffened legs. Johnny had made a half circuit of the meadow. He was bringing Lightly back, leaving the drove, which had followed her, divided betwixt wallowing and grazing. He scrambled down and leaned a minute on the mare's shoulder. She batted her ears and nipped his arm, then rubbed the saddle lightly back and forth against him. The instant she felt it ungirthed she slid from under it, letting it tumble from his hands, gave a low, prankish kick, then ran a little way to a level space, put her nose to earth, turned twice about, feeling for snags or stones, then lay down upon it and wallowed hard, turning over three times and kicking vigorously with all her feet as she lay poised upon her backbone.

She got up and stood, with her head slightly drooping, nibbling at a handful of grass. Squire Gleaves held. Johnny went up to her and made to take off the bridle, but Squire Gleaves waved him back, saying: "Get the halter ready first, Jack. No horse, not even Lightly, ain't to be depended on when there's rain in the air. I'm sure it's goin' to rain tonight. That's what sets the drove to wallowin' an' nickerin' so an' cockin' their tails so sassy. They won't break out without this lady," stroking Lightly's glossy neck, "but with her loose thar's no tellin' what mightn't happen. If once she took the notion to run there'd be the devil to pay."

The wagon clattering up drowned lower sounds, at least to human ears. But all at once Lightly half wheeled, stretched her neck, pricked both ears sharply forward, flung up her head and snorted. Then she stood rigid with flaring nostrils, snorting faintly with every other breath. She faced the unbroken woods, thick with underbrush, which lay upon the other side of the road. Squire Gleaves stroked her shoulder soothingly as he said to Johnny: "I do wonder what she hears or smells. It can't be varmint. If it was she'd stand forward, ready to jump at it an' trample it. An' travelers ain't likely—not unless they're lost."

"Maybe it's—robbers," Johnny said in a whisper. Squire Gleaves laughed, but not too easily. Outlawry was a thing all drovers had to reckon with. He had known of droves stampeded, of drovers robbed and murdered in cold blood, though he himself had always gone scot free. He had reflected that it was foolhardy to have come as he had, thus light handed, with the biggest drove and the most valuable that had ever left the grass country. So he was more than relieved when a single horseman broke out of the bush, apparently unarmed, well, even fashionably, equipped and splendidly mounted, though his horse, a raking chestnut, seemed something overrid-

den. With a civil greeting he got down, stretched himself mightily, unsaddled his panting horse, then swung upon his heels, saying: "I see you mean to camp here. Will you take me in?"

"We are out ourselves. We don't own the earth and the sky," Joe answered with a nervous half laugh. The stranger did not notice him. Instead he addressed the squire. "We are dead beat, my horse and I; have been lost all day," he said. "White Foot is better off than his master. He can eat grass if there is nothing better. I am very hungry."

"Well, you won't stay so—not long," the squire said. "You, Sam, make haste with that word. The fire ought to be burnin' by this. I struck a light the minute I got down."

"With your gun flint?" the stranger asked. Squire Gleaves looked at him hard, nodded and added slowly: "Yes, with my gun flint, but you better believe I primed the pan well afterward. I never yet shot at anything more'n a deer an' hope I never shall, but one thing's sure—if ever horse thieves or money thieves try to stop me they'll find me ready."

"They generally go round men they know to be ready," the stranger said, laughing sweetly and looking hard across at Joe. Then he turned to Lightly, ran his hand up and down her forearm and on down to the coronet, then back with a sweeping flourish until it rested upon her throat. "Sound legs, a head that looks over the moon," he muttered as though to himself, then to Squire Gleaves: "I want her. Name your price."

This time it was the squire who laughed. Joe frowned and essayed to speak. His father held up his hand. "Wait. It takes a bit of figurin'," he said. "Let's see—the drove's a little the rise of 200. They'll average \$150 the head. That's \$30,000 in a lumpin' trade. I couldn't take less for Lightly—not a cent less."

"I don't understand. I don't want to buy the drove"—the stranger began. Squire Gleaves broke in: "I thought you didn't. I doubt, in fact, if you ever saw a real horse drove before."

"I have certainly seen loose horses driven," the stranger said. Again the squire cut him short. "No doubt," he said. "Everybody must have seen that—four or five horses, or maybe even a dozen. But, let me tell you, that ain't horse droverin'. A real drover has got either to breed his own stock or else buy it at weanin' time an' let it graze an' grow up to follow the bell. Ever hear of a bell mare? Lightly's mine. A bell mare must never have a colt of her own. Then she's ready to mother an' rule everything that comes round her. When the colts are wanted to her she can take 'em anywhere—one mile or a thousand, it don't matter. If I was fool enough to sell you Lightly an' you took her away not one out there in the meadow would stop feedin' till he was full. But along after dark, when half of 'em were ready to lay down, they'd begin whickerin', whickerin' whickerin', an' keep it up till after midnight. Then there'd come a break in spite of me an' my men an' whips an' halters. They'd take right out on her track an' climb mountains or swim rivers to find her, an' they wouldn't stop to eat much nor drink often by the way."

The stranger laughed. "Droving must be profitable—under such conditions," he said demurely. "As I understand it, the bell mare comes back with you"

"Oh, I'm honest enough to warn folks," Squire Gleaves said, also laughing, but grimly. "I swear 'em to keep stock they buy of me stabled or hopped through two springs. After that the beasts either forget or fall in love with the place they live or somethin'

about it. But as true as you stand there I've had horses come home after six years. Seems like springtime sets 'em wild to see the place they were foaled in, an', no matter how far off it is, they sense the course."

"How far have you known them to come?" the stranger asked.

"Five hundred miles, maybe more," Squire Gleaves answered. The stranger whistled, then, with a change of manner, said: "Since I must impose on your hospitality, my name is Robin—Lucas Robin. I thank you very much for a chance at supper and a place at your fire."

Johnny Cope wondered why Joe Gleaves got so white as he heard the stranger's name. But fate and nature had conspired to make him a silent lad, so he kept the wonder to himself. Indeed, he never talked to anybody except blind Miss Alice. He sat with her of Sundays when the rest went to church, and to her he told of all he saw in the woods, the pastures, the farmyard. In between he read to her, haltingly, but intelligently, the psalms, the Ten Commandments, the sermon on the mount. Miss Alice was older than Joe, frail, but cheery, and the soul of kindness, especially to Johnny, who seemed to her so pitifully lost and lonesome. In return Johnny worshiped her and was ready to die for her or for anybody she loved.

He fell asleep to dream of her beside the camp fire after the watch had been set. Squire Gleaves and Shadrach were to ride round the drove until midnight. From then until daybreak Joe and black Sam would be in charge. Johnny's last conscious sight was of Joe staring into the fire, while Lucas Robin spoke low and eagerly in his ear. Lady Golightly, securely tethered a little way from the wagon, was muzzling the remains of her fodder, making little dry, tinkling sounds that somehow wove themselves all through Johnny's dream.

When they fell silent he awoke with a start. The fire was dead. By the stars he knew it was long past midnight. A northwest wind had swept away the promise of rain, and, though there was no moon, a clear gray brilliance filled the sky. He scrambled up and stirred the brands. They were dank and cold. Water had been thrown upon them. Just outside the fire circle Joe lay, breathing heavily. Black Sam was snoring a yard beyond. Johnny shook them hard. They did not stir. He sprang toward the blanket spread for Lucas Robin. It was empty, tossed into a huddled heap. Trembling all over, he ran toward the meadow. In the edge of it Shadrach sat his horse, fast asleep. Squire Gleaves was nowhere visible. But the drove had begun to stir, neighing here or there keen complaint.

No answer to the complainings! Johnny knew what that meant—the bell mare had been stolen. Lucas Robin was the thief. Intuitively the lad snatched a halter and rushed into the thick of the drove, now all standing and half of it whickering distress. The horses snorted and edged away as he wound in and out. More than one let fly at him with viciously nimble heels, but he kept on undaunted until he found what he sought—Damsel, Lightly's four-year-old half sister and her match in speed and stay.

In a twinkling he had scrambled up and was out on the road. There he let his single rein fall loose. Damsel herself must choose the way. Once she was settled in the course he knew he could come up with the robber. The others had been drugged, no doubt. He recalled that Robin had made them drink after supper from his pocket flask. Johnny had refused the offered dram because he had promised Miss Alice never to drink until he was twen-

ty-one. Miss Alice! He was going to bring back the bell mare and save the drove—for her. She said ingratitude was the blackest sin of all, so he could not let himself be ungrateful.

From the big meadow the trace ran south straight and almost level for ten miles. Then it branched, one fork leading into the foothills that twenty miles farther on were mountains, the other keeping well to the plains. Damsel whickered three times, turning her head now this way, now that, listened a breath's space, snorted, then struck into a trot and went due south. An owl flew across the way, a little higher than Johnny's head, hooting loudly, its eyes showing fiery in the dusk. In the dark woods, either hand, there were long gleams of fox fire. Mists rose white from the damp places, crickets shrilled, and whippoorwills sent out their weird crying.

Johnny was superstitious. He had no fear whatever of Lucas Robin, but the owl, the fox fire, the whippoorwill daunted him. He was about to turn back, but as he pondered it choice left him. Behind him, through the starlit dusk, there sounded the thunder of 200 hoofs, following a new leader to seek out the old. Damsel was galloping easily. As she caught the noise behind she swung into a dead run. Johnny could do nothing but sit still, keep her head up and let her run. The drove was in mad stampede. If he tried to turn back it would trample him.

On, on they flew, mile after mile, yet still the weighted racer led the unweighted ones. In that free course, as upon all others, blood told. Before half of it was past only the pick of the drove ran hot upon the young mare's heels. Johnny sat far forward. His terrors had left him. He had caught the spirit of the race and was ready for any fate. Once when he heard a lone cock crow faint and far off he answered with a quavering yell. Once, too, a fox barked, and he mocked it with a shriller bay. Damsel swerved a little as she heard the crying. Thus gray Gilder ran up to her and even got half a length in front. Johnny flung himself prone along her neck and shouted in her ear, shrill, sweet, half articulate, maddeningly clear. She knew the call and answered it gallantly. In three bounds she was clear of the gray, running strong and free, as though she never meant to stop. A hundred yards farther on she neighed joyously. Johnny's heart came in his mouth, for down wind, low and keen, he heard an answering neigh.

He was coming up with the thief, with Lightly. What should he, what could he, do? He had a clasp knife in his belt. Otherwise he was unarmed. Still he did not despair. If the man led Lightly instead of riding her she would break from him and come back to the drove when she heard Johnny's call. Then he must mount her and ride for it. She would run for him as for nobody else in the world. White Foot, the fagged chestnut, would never catch her. Of course there was the chance that Lucas Robin might shoot—maybe that was what the owl and the fox fire and the whippoorwill had meant—but it was too late now to change anything. Doggedly he rode on, conscious of nothing but that he meant to save the horses because, in a way, they belonged to Miss Alice.

Dawn broke red and clear. The wind freshened. Suddenly a bullet sang past, missing Johnny's head a bare inch. It came from the roadside. In the strengthening light he could distinguish there Lady Golightly tugging at her halter and lashing out with her heels at the fagged chestnut. The chestnut's rider was swearing loudly. His second pistol had flashed in the pan. Johnny saw that in his anger he had put it to the black mare's head,



and flung up his hands, crying out at the sight.

"Here, you boy! Are you a sensible lad?" Robin called as the drove and its leader charged down upon him. Johnny sat straighter.

"If I was I reckon I wouldn't be here," he said. "But I try to be honest. That's why I come after Lightly."

"You won't get her," Robin said with a sneering laugh. "She's mine, lawfully mine. Joe Gleaves let me have her to pay one of his gambling debts. The drove was to pay the others and leave something over for him. Joe is a coward. He would not let me take her openly. I had to drug the lot of them and then slip off like a thief!"

"You are a thief, and worse," Johnny said hotly. With an oath Robin spurred at him, meaning to ride him down. In the rush he dropped Lightly's halter. Johnny wheeled Damsel, whistling as she wheeled. Lightly ran to him. Before Lucas Robin could check and turn Johnny was on the bell mare's back and riding for life through the woods toward the big meadow.

Luckily they were open woods. Johnny lay flat on the mare's back, guiding her, what time she needed guidance, by gentle pressure, now this side her neck, now that. It took more than a mile to skirt and head the bewildered drove, which turned in its tracks to follow the tinkling bell. Momently he expected to feel a bullet, better aimed, plow through his flesh. He could hear Robin behind swearing horribly, but to his joy the sounds grew fainter, and when broad daylight laughed through the woods they ceased altogether. But Johnny dared not sit up until at a crossroad he ran upon the circuit rider and the hunter who was guiding him to his next appointment.

They went with him to the big meadow, where the sleepers all were struggling back to sick consciousness. There Johnny told the whole story, except Joe's part in it. That he never told anybody until Joe was safely dead, for, say what you will, he was Miss Alice's brother, and she loved him dearly.

#### The Luxury of Grief.

The luxury of grief is indulged in by all ages, but it is doubtful if it is ever again so much enjoyed as in childhood, according to the Boston Transcript. Perhaps if our memories could take us back to the very earliest days of infancy we should find that we were often reveling in delight when we were sympathetically supposed to be writhing with stomach ache "and with no language but a cry."

A little girl of most angelic disposition has given the whole thing away. She had fallen on a brick walk and barked her knees and bumped her chin. To her next door neighbor, who inquired from the window some time afterward if she had hurt herself very badly the sufferer replied with a quivering lip: "Oh, yes. I ought to be in the house crying now!"

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## Trains That Pass In the Night

By C. CLAYTON BROWN

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SOMERVILLE, being only a day office, was usually closed for the night promptly at 8 o'clock. But at 11 o'clock one exceptionally cold right early in December the fire light from the little office stove revealed two youthful forms huddled close to its grateful warmth and earnestly engaged in whispered conversation.

The little building which served as a station for the X. B. and W. railroad at Somerville also afforded accommodation for a residence in its upper story and was occupied by the family of Silas Carver, the station agent. The family consisted of Silas, his wife and their daughter Nellie, an extremely pretty girl about sixteen years of age.

Somerville was an unimportant station, and the salary attached to its agency was so small that in the winter season Silas used to add a few dollars to his scanty income by the sale of chest protectors to hapless travelers. By frequently reciting the merits of the protectors Silas had convinced himself that it was simply foolhardy not to wear them in cold weather and insisted upon his wife and daughter wearing them throughout the winter.

Some four years before Ned Marsden, orphaned and homeless at fifteen years of age, had been taken in by Silas as helper at the station. He had proved himself a bright, ambitious boy and had acquired so thorough a knowledge of telegraphy that he had, upon Silas' recommendation, been appointed night operator at Litchfield, seven miles north of Somerville.

There he at first gave promise of rapid advancement; but, unfortunately, he had become hopelessly enamored of pretty Nellie Carver, and Nellie had become more than interested in him. So he soon began to spend most of his days in her society at Somerville, forfeiting the sleep so essential for a satisfactory performance of his duties at night, and in consequence rendered the company indifferent service. He had finally been discharged.

Silas, having recommended him so highly, regarded this as a personal affront and had upbraided him unsparingly and also laid strict injunction upon Nellie to have nothing more to do with him.

It immediately became necessary for Ned to seek a position elsewhere, but to leave without seeing Nellie was not to be thought of. His familiarity with the habits of the Carvers suggested to him the ease with which a meeting might be arranged if she would admit him to the office after her parents were asleep. To this Nellie had consented, though with much misgiving, for she was not given to deceit of any kind.

"Oh, Ned," she whispered, "you shouldn't have asked me to do this! What would father say if he knew it?"

"I know it, Nell," replied the boy, "but I'm going away tomorrow, perhaps forever, and I couldn't go without seeing you. He'll never know it anyway."

"I hope not, I'm sure," said Nellie, only partially reassured. "But I must tell mother. I have never deceived her before, and I do feel so guilty."

"Oh, what is the matter?" she concluded, for Ned had suddenly leaped to the table on which the telegraph instrument was busily ticking.

"Sh! Just a minute!" he cautioned

and listened eagerly to the clicking instrument. Suddenly he exclaimed in a horror stricken voice: "Great heavens, Nell, the operator at Denis failed to deliver an order to the limited to meet the southern express here! Both think they have right of track and are sure to collide if something isn't done to prevent it. The train dispatcher is frantic. Listen! He's calling Somerville now, hoping to find Si awake. He might as well be calling somebody in a graveyard for all the good it'll do him."

"Why, no, Ned! You can answer him. Do! See what he wants."

"Not much," replied Ned grimly. "That's Sam Smithers, the dispatcher who reported me for being fresh one night because when I was half asleep I gave him the same number on three different engines, and when he said 'All engines look alike to you, I guess,' I told him, 'No; there's one out there in the sawmill that looks a little different from the others.' Let him sweat it out. If I did answer him he'd only tell me to do what I'm going to anyway. Then he'd get all the credit for it."

"Wh-wh-what are we going to do, Ned?" stammered the frightened girl.

"Do?" returned he scornfully. "Why, stop them, of course. We want the red lantern first. Where is it?"

"Oh, it's not here, Ned! Father lent it to the church people to be used in decorating the hall for their fair tomorrow night. You know, this is not a night office, and we never use it."

"That's nice. Never mind. We'll take the white one and wrap the red flag around it; do just as well."

"But there is no red flag!" wailed the unhappy girl. "The local ran over it yesterday. Father ordered another at once, but it hasn't come yet."

"Well, that beats the devil," exclaimed Ned in disgust—"a railroad office without a danger signal! To think of Old Si lecturing me for neglect of duty! I don't know what we will do now—unless," he continued hopefully, "you have on a red petticoat."

"But I haven't, Ned!" cried the girl in utter despair. "Mine is white."

"Then I guess we're stuck. But, no! You wear a chest protector?"

"Yes."

"Good! Is it a red one?"

"Yes."

"Good! Good! Yank it off, quick!"

In another moment he had it from her trembling hands, and after he had carefully fastened it between the frame and the white globe of the lantern he noted critically the bright red tinge it gave to the lantern's light. Then, placing it in her hands, he said: "There's yours. Now, what shall I use? Oh, yes—the switch light, to be sure. It is red on two sides and will do if I hold it right. Nell, you must go up the track and stop the express. I'll look after the limited. She's the dangerous one. I think Johnnie Clark is running her tonight, and he only touches the high places when he's late. Get just as far up the track as you can, and when the headlight comes into sight swing your lantern straight across the track till he answers it. Look out for the cattle guard at the crossing and don't stumble. Now go!"

A low, steady rumbling borne from a distance on the still, frosty air reminded him that there yet remained important work to do.

He hastened to the high switch target and clambered up its dozen iron rounds, so cold it was painful to release his hands from them, wrenched the warning signal from its socket and slid to the ground. Then, after one fleeting glance to see if Nellie's signal was still visible, he sped quickly but carefully down the track, holding one red side of the heavy lantern directly before him.

With startling shrillness came the

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## The Youth's Realm

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whistle from the fast approaching limited. Its engineer, believing that he had absolute right of track, was using every ounce of steam in a mad endeavor to make up time.

The whistle blast just sounded was the customary one for the highway crossing at the foot of the one mile hill. This hill the limited must ascend and round before Somerville would come into view.

Ned knew it would take the train at least three minutes to ascend the hill and round the curve, and to avert the collision he must get the signal to them before they pitched over the summit of the hill and struck the heavy down grade into Somerville.

He had only a little more than two minutes' time in which to cover 200 yards on an up grade, and he was handicapped by the weight of the heavy lantern. Two short, sharp whistle blasts from behind told him that Nellie's signal had been seen and that the express would be stopped far enough below the station to make all safe if he could only communicate the danger to the limited in time.

The steady, even exhaust from the engine of the latter train was becoming horribly distinct.

Great beads of perspiration stood out upon his forehead as he redoubled his efforts. His heart almost failed him when he saw the rays from the engine's headlight veer to the north as it reached the tangent of the curve, but he struggled bravely on and in half a

the coaches behind that danger lurked ahead.

Ned had done all he could and had barely time to step aside before the train went rushing by, but the grinding of the brakes told him that Johnnie had the "emergency" applied and that if the sand held out his efforts were not in vain.

It was some time before the exhausted boy could summon strength to retrace his steps. He had not proceeded far before he met a flagman, hastening back to protect the limited's rear end, who shouted as he passed, "What's the

matter here, pardner?" but waited not for a reply.

Ned soon came upon the final scene of the event, where stood the panting locomotives, scarce twenty feet apart, snorting defiance at each other as if furious at being cheated of the fray.

There he found Nellie, who, with incoherent words and trembling voice, was endeavoring to explain the situation to the bewildered trainmen. Ned at once assumed this not very difficult task, and it required but few words from him to elucidate matters to his quick witted audience.

Then, after one, one train backed into the siding and allowed the other to pass it on the main line, both sped on into the darkness and the night, bearing their precious loads of living freight, who, all unconscious of their narrow escape, were calmly slumbering.

After a long consultation the young lovers decided that Silas must be made acquainted with the facts at once. After Silas had telegraphed a report of it to his superintendent they were alternately scolded and caressed until daylight. The next day the following letter came to Silas:

Dayton, Dec. 5.

Silas Carver, Agent Somerville:

Referring to your telegraphic report concerning trains 72 and 93 meeting on main line at your station, I wish to inform you that the failure of Night Operator Thomas at Denis to deliver an order to No. 93 was the cause of the unfortunate occurrence.

I believe I am acquainted with all the particulars of the incident and hope you have not been too severe with the young people on account of their disregard of parental authority.

I desire you to express to them my grateful appreciation of their timely and heroic action. I hope at an early date to make more substantial recognition of it.

Meanwhile, in view of last night's occurrence, I have decided to make a night office of your station at once and wish you would say to Mr. Marsden that he is hereby appointed night operator at Somerville.

B. M. BURNHAM,  
Superintendent.

### The Use of Quotations.

The danger in sprinkling one's work with quotations is that the brilliancy of the quotations has a tendency to make the rest of the work look dull. Many of the best writers, however, have got much of the charm of their style from apt quotation and illustration. The Literary Collector gives this example of apt use of ornament by the late William Allen Butler, the lawyer, who wrote "Nothing to Wear."

Mr. Butler was arguing a case before the supreme court of the United States and was trying to convince the court that a certain clause in an insurance policy was available for the company, but could not be invoked by the assured. His opponent slyly remarked:

"The learned counsel reminds me of the words of an American poet (Butler himself) when he makes Miss Flora McFlimsey say to her affianced:

"This is the sort of engagement, you see, Which is binding on you, but not binding on me."

He then proceeded to contend that in a previous decision against him the court was wholly wrong.

When a reply was in order Mr. Butler observed that counsel had seen fit to make a quotation from a minor poet,

but that in view of the line of argument adopted by his adversary he was disposed to refer him to the great English poet who rejoiced in the same name and who wrote in "Hudibras":

He that complies against his will  
Is of his own opinion still.

### Instinct In Birds.

A flock of English sparrows disappeared for a day or two while a sparrow hawk frequented a tree near a correspondent's house, but they showed no fear of crows thereabouts, and they fraternized with robins. "How do they know their enemy?" the correspondent asks. For countless generations their progenitors knew the sparrow hawk of Europe as a foe and were on friendly familiarity with crows, even occupying old nests of these sable birds. But a new experience would be sufficient. Animals quickly form associations, and these are transmitted as instincts. A few years ago the Revue Scientifique gave an instance of the "formation of an instinct." A flock of geese were badly frightened by a furious dog while entering their night inclosure at twilight. Ever after those geese and their descendants exhibited the same fright at the same place and hour, though the dog attack was never repeated. Quick and lasting associations, far surpassing those of man and better than reason for animals, are the wonderful endowment often mistaken for animal intelligence.—American Inventor.

### Schoolboy Wrangling.

A writer in the London Spectator says there is no reason why an "argument" between schoolboys should ever come to an end, for this is its usual course:

"Yorkshire is the best county in England."

"No, it's not. Lancashire is."

"No, it's not."

"Yes, it is."

"I know it isn't."

"I know it is."

This exchange of assertion goes on until possibly as the beginning of another argument it comes to an end as abruptly as it started.

The most original dispute, however, took place when two little boys were contradicting each other and an older lad tried to pour oil on the troubled water by quoting, "It takes two to make a quarrel and one to end it."

"All right!" shouted a combatant.

"I'll be the one!"

"No, you shan't!" yelled the other. "I will!"

Then a warm dispute followed, each claiming the distinction of being peacemaker.

### Too Late With the Dollar.

"Hurry up with your fare!" cried the conductor of a Broadway car to a messenger boy with a big bundle under his arm.

"I'll give it to you in a minute," returned the boy. But as he searched in pocket after pocket his face grew scarlet. "It's in my other suit wrapped up in this paper," he explained.

"None of that," interposed the conductor. "You'll have to get off."

"Wait a minute, conductor, and see if he isn't telling the truth," said a prosperous looking man.

Meantime the boy, his face redder still, untied his bundle and proceeded to rummage through the pockets of his old uniform. At last he fished out a nickel.

"You are an honest boy," said the prosperous looking man. "Here's a dollar."

The messenger boy looked at the dollar and then at the man.

"Not if I know it, mister," he exclaimed loud enough for everybody on the car to hear. "I don't want no pay

for bein' honest. Besides, you're too late wid de coin. W'en you seen dat guy about to put me off w'y didn't youse come acrost wid a nickel? Keep yer old dollar till I asks you fer it!"

Then the prosperous looking man also got red in the face.—New York Press.

### Both Sexes Admire Men.

"Men consider themselves the superior of women, and women, even in their childhood, coincide in this view," said a schoolteacher. "To a class of fifty girls and fifty boys of the average age of fifteen years I once put the question, 'Who is your ideal human being—the one you admire and love most?' In reply to this question about 95 per cent of the boys gave me a male character and 75 per cent of the girls did the same thing. Statistics, I understand, have been gathered on this matter, and these prove quite conclusively that boys and girls alike prefer men to women. When girls are under ten about 40 per cent of them will, according to the statistics, name women as their best loved characters, but as they grow older this minority changes over to the men's side. The characters that are chosen are as a rule George Washington, William Tell, Napoleon and Shakespeare."—Philadelphia Record.

### The Walking We Do.

It is safe to say that every man walks two miles a day, if only in stirring about his room or office. If a man lives to be thirty years old he will walk 21,900 miles. The man who be-



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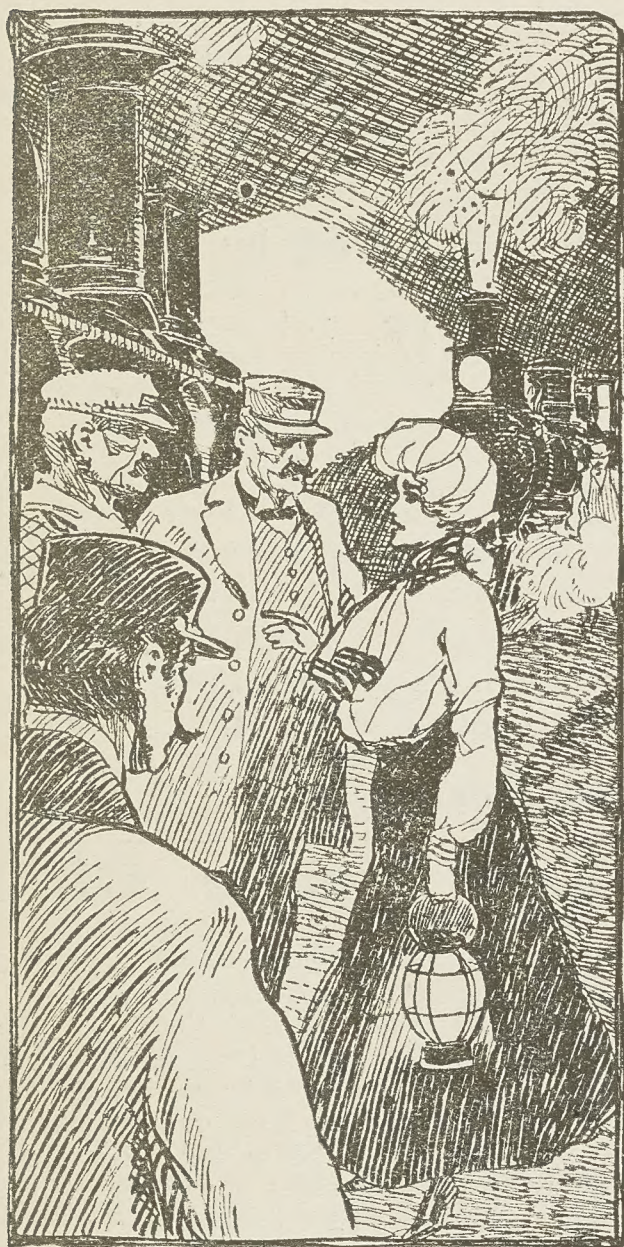
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She was endeavoring to explain.

minute more stood breathless and trembling, but happy and triumphant, at the top of the hill, looking straight into the fiercely glaring headlight and swinging his lantern across the track.

Once, twice, thrice, he swung it without response. "Johnnie Clark must be mad," he thought, "to go lurching around this curve with his eyes shut!"

But even with the thought there came the acknowledgment of the signal, followed immediately by a hoarse shriek for brakes, which notified the crew in



leaves in a daily constitutional of five miles will walk 54,750 miles. The circumference of the earth is 24,890 miles. Walking five miles a day, a man who has walked for thirty years will walk around the globe twice and have a few thousand odd miles to his credit.

### An Animal Story For Little Folks

## The Sparrow's Revenge

One day the squirrel was feeling in a bad humor, which is not nice in little squirrels any more than it is in little boys and girls, and when the sparrow was trying to take a little nap on a twig of the tree the squirrel shook the limbs so hard that the poor sleepy head could get no rest.

"Please don't do that," pleaded the sparrow.

"Oh, it's lots of fun to keep you awake," replied the selfish little squirrel.

"I'll do anything for you if you will only let me sleep for an hour or two," said the sparrow.

"Well," said the squirrel, "I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll go down on the



THE SPARROW AGREED.

ground, and you may toss me some nuts, and I will store them away in the little hole in the ground in which I'm going to sleep this winter. If you do that, I will let you sleep a little while."

The sparrow agreed to this, and the squirrel hurried down the tree trunk.

Now, it happened that the sparrow had a nest in the top of the tree, and there were two little eggs in the nest. Instead of getting a nice nut to drop down to the squirrel Mr. Sparrow picked out the biggest egg in the nest.

"Throw them straight!" cried the squirrel. "I'm going to catch them in my teeth!" And he opened his mouth as wide as he could.

Then the sparrow dropped the egg.

Oh, my! Oh, me! It struck right square in the squirrel's mouth, and the shell was crushed into a thousand pieces. The white of the egg and the yolk of the egg splashed all over the squirrel from head to heel, and the worst of it was that his eyes were filled with the egg and he could no more see than a blind man.

Then the squirrel ran away into the grass, and the sparrow laughed and said, "That serves you right for treating me bad." Then he closed his little eyes and took a nice long sleep.—Chicago Tribune.

### A Daring Surgical Operation.

An operation was recently performed in Chicago at the county hospital which is one of the first of its kind in the country. George Deitz, 1350 Ontario avenue, fifty years old, was operated on for chronic Bright's disease by Dr. John Dill Robertson, professor of surgery at the American College of

Medicine and Surgery. The patient's kidneys were both decapsulated, which, the surgeons say, is one of the most daring operations of modern surgery. Out of fifty cases which have been so treated in Europe and America 90 per cent have recovered.

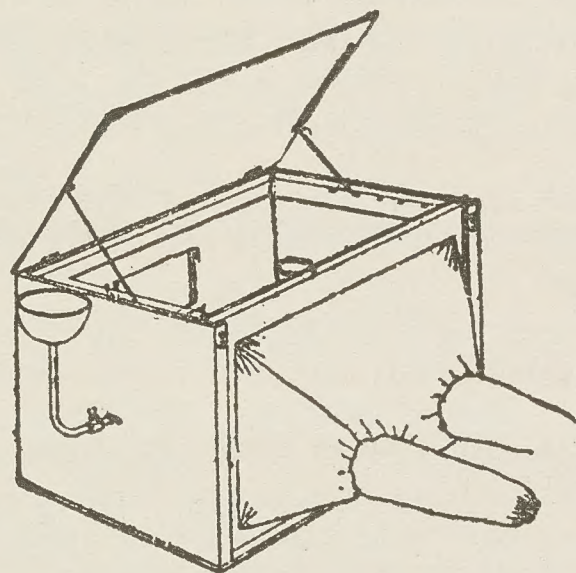
### PORTABLE DARK ROOM.

#### New Device of Value to Amateur Photographers.

Every photographer will be interested in the portable dark chamber for manipulating plates and films which has recently been designed by an English inventor. It is of course intended largely for the amateur, as the professional is generally provided with a large room especially fitted up for this portion of the work. To those who are unable to provide themselves with the regulation dark room through lack of space this idea will prove especially interesting.

The idea of a portable dark room, where plate holders can be refilled and the exposed negatives packed for shipment, is not entirely new, but the inventor of this outfit goes a step further and adds a developing apparatus which is novel and especially advantageous for the class of work for which the machine has been designed.

The trouble with developing exposures in a portable dark room has been



HAS DEVELOPING OUTFIT INCLUDED.

the difficulty of examining the negative from time to time to stop the developing process at just the proper moment. This is overcome in the apparatus here shown by placing a reflecting mirror beneath the box, which throws light through a colored screen in the bottom of the developing tray, and, the latter being of transparent material, it is easy to watch the process of development and check it at the right time. The apparatus includes, of course, developing and fixing baths, with shelves for storage of the chemicals, and provision is also made for a stream of water for rinsing the negatives.

### Oiling and Drying Floors.

In oiling the floor with linseed oil use a half gallon of boiled linseed oil mixed with a quarter of a pound of burned sienna, and rub it on the floor with a large woolen rag. A strong decoction of the inside of red oak bark set with copperas makes a nice dye for floors. After rubbing it in thoroughly and letting it dry rub the floor with a waxed brush.

### Beefsteak and Onions.

A delicate variation of the somewhat coarse dish, beefsteak and onions, is achieved by rolling three or four chopped onions in a beefsteak, tying securely and leaving the beefsteak overnight in the ice box. Remove the onions and broil, turning frequently. The onions may be fried separately if desired and served as a side dish to those who like them.

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#### NEWS AND COMMENT.

**V**E may not be at the commencement of the greatest stamp year in the history of the pursuit (the season is not far enough advanced to decide that), but the gain in business for December over the previous month was very remarkable. One large mail order stamp dealer reports his receipts to have increased 70 per cent. within 30 days. For every dollar he received in November he got \$1.70 in December. Trade in December always exceeds that in November, but the gain is seldom over 40 per cent. Every month until spring the business increases, until in April or May it reaches its climax. If the increase in business from month to month continues as it has during the past 30 days, the year will be a notable one from a commercial standpoint. Last winter the coal situation had its effect on the stamp business, but this year our stoves are filled to the brim and our place by the fireside is warm and inviting. This is the kind of atmosphere conducive to the collecting habit which thousands enjoy when the weather outside is severe and some amusement in the house is sought. It is the stamp dealer who feels the keenest the pulse-beat of this great pursuit, and who, by glancing over his cash book, can tell you when the stamp fever is at its height.

It is now known definitely that there will be five values to the St. Louis set of stamps, 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10 cts., respectively. On the 1c. value will be portrayed Robert R. Livingstone, Minister to France, who conducted negotiations for the Louisiana purchase. 2c, Thomas Jefferson. 3c, James Monroe who helped on the conclusion of the negotiations. 5c, McKinley. 10c, map of the U. S. showing territory purchased from France. The stamps will be about the size of the Columbian series.

The Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences is to have a postal museum in connection with its department of philately. Some 60 foreign governments have contributed stamps, to make the exhibit as complete as possible.

The new U. S. 2c stamp is meeting with marked approval from our neighbors across the sea. One reason for its popularity is explained by the great care taken in printing the stamps and the brilliancy of the ink used.

The figure of the female seed sower will shortly appear on all the stamps of the French Colonies.

#### HOME MADE ALBUMS

**D**E don't want to say a word against the printed stamp album. For average collectors it is the best album to buy. For very small collections, for collections from special countries only, and for minor varieties of shades, watermarks and plate numbers, the blank album is better than the illustrated book with special squares for the straight issues only.

The collector of minor varieties is by no means in the majority today, but almost every collector has stamps such as foreign revenues, telegraphs, private locals, cut square or entire foreign envelopes, and post cards, which are not provided for in the printed album. A blank album therefore is a necessity to almost every collector who wishes to have a place for every stamp in his collection. We will tell you how a home-made stamp album, suitable for a general collection, or for odds and ends, can be made.

The material for the inside of the home-made stamp album can be bought at a wholesale paper warehouse or of a printer, and the cloth of a binder's supply house or of a printer also. Seventy-five sheets of twenty-four pound folio, worth about eight cents per pound, will make a good book. The paper will cost about thirty cents. It should be cut into quarters, each page measuring about 8½ inches by 11. For cutting the printer would charge you about ten cents extra, although you can fold each sheet and cut the paper yourself with a long knife, just as you would cut open the leaves of an untrimmed magazine.

Two pieces of heavy cardboard, each one-quarter inch wider than the paper and one-half longer from top to bottom will serve for the covers.

A piece of binder's cloth should be cut for each piece of the cover, so that it will cover one side of the board and lap over about three-quarters of an inch on the other side. Before putting on the cloth, cut a strip off of the cardboard, on the left-hand side, about three-quarters of an inch wide, so that each cover will hinge back when the book is open. This narrow strip of cardboard, should be put in the same position it occupied before it was cut, but the edges of the narrow piece and the board from which it was cut should not quite meet. The cloth then covers both pieces. The side of the board not covered by cloth should be covered neatly with paper. The cloth sides are for the outside of the book. Great care should be taken to spread the glue or paste (boiled flour and water containing plenty of glue) evenly over the boards before applying the cloth. There should be no dry spots on the board when the cloth is put on, and the cloth should be rubbed briskly with a dry rag for several minutes to prevent the cloth from wrinkling.

You now have two loose covers and a bunch of loose leaves to be bunched up and tied together. The printer can punch two holes through the covers and paper, so that cord or tape can be run through, drawn up tight and tied in a bow knot. The best substitute for a punched hole is one made by driving a sharp wire nail of good size through the entire book. The holes should be about six inches apart, one say two inches from the top and the other the same distance from the bottom of the album, and both should be in the left hand margin as the top of the book faces you. Furthermore, the holes should run through the narrow strip of cardboard which was cut off from the whole cover, so that, as the book is opened, the left-hand margin remains firm.

The object of such a binding is that loose leaves can be put in or removed from the book, as occasion requires. If a new page is necessary for new issues of any country, the cord can be loosened and the page inserted. It is well to reserve the pages in the back of the book for this purpose. They can be taken from the back and placed in any part of the album whenever it is necessary.

Those who wish a more expensive album can purchase a better grade of paper, and for a post-card album, less pages of thin card are better than paper leaves.

It takes a little practice to rule off the pages into proper squares for the stamps. With a jet black ink, a good pen, and a ruler suitable for ink drawing, the pages can be ruled equal to a printed page.

The trouble comes in getting the lines at right angles to each other. To overcome this difficulty, use a card with distances marked off upon it. First rule off lightly with lead pencil tracing over afterwards with ink. To get the squares at right angles to the margins, place one side of the card flush with the edge of the page and you will then have a side at right angles to work with. With care and patience and a careful study of the above, the album will be a success.

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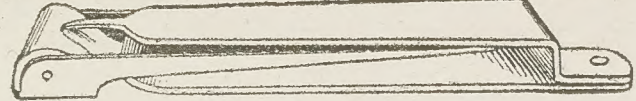
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